

ABSTRACT

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR LICENSING A SOFTWARE PRODUCT

5 A method and system for activating and obtaining a license for a software product
is disclosed. A local license is obtained from a storage medium of the software product
and is stored with the software product on a user's computer. The local license allows for
one of multiple license types to be activated from a single software product. The user
enters a product key containing a channel ID. The compact disk or other storage medium
10 is searched for the appropriate local license for the channel ID. The local license includes
a MSIID, a channel ID range for each supported license type, a license type for each
channel id range, and an optional product expiration date for the license type. The license
type is determined by looking up the product key's channel id in the local license's
channel id range table. If activation is required based on the license type, then an
15 installation ID including a product ID (PID) and a hardware ID (H/W ID) are transmitted
to an activation authority. The activation authority uses the PID to determine whether the
software product has been activated before and uses the channel ID to determine the type
of backend license to grant. If the PID is found in the database, the activation authority
applies various unlocking rules to determine whether or not the backend license should be
20 issued and, if so, the activation authority transmits a backend license.

M & G Docket No.: 60001.0030US01
MS No. 154671.1